

NWS Grand Junction, Colorado

November 2020

Climate Summary for Eastern Utah and Western Colorado

Produced by Megan Stackhouse, Meteorologist



High pressure kicked off the first week of November resulting in dry conditions and a gradual warming trend across E UT/W CO. A strong cold front moved through the area November 7-9 and brought generally 5 to 12 inches of snow to the central Colorado mountains and 1 to 2 feet of snow to the SW San Juans with up to 35 inches estimated at the Spud Mountain SNOTEL site. In addition, gusty winds accompanied the front with gusts exceeding 60 MPH in the higher elevations. Another shortwave disturbance impacted the area the second weekend of the month and brought 5 to 10 inches of snow to the N and Central CO mountains. Generally dry conditions continued through the third week of November before another cold front moved through on the 22nd-24th. Seasonable temperatures persisted in the wake of this system and through the Thanksgiving Holiday. The last few days of the month saw high pressure build overhead with mostly clear skies dominating the region, apart from some low stratus and fog that developed in the Gunnison, San Juan and Animas River Basins each night.

November was on average drier than normal across the region as 9 out of the 10 automated stations found at airports across E UT/W CO ended the month with below normal precipitation. November was generally warmer than normal for most of the region with mean temperatures ranging anywhere from 1 to 5 degrees above normal.

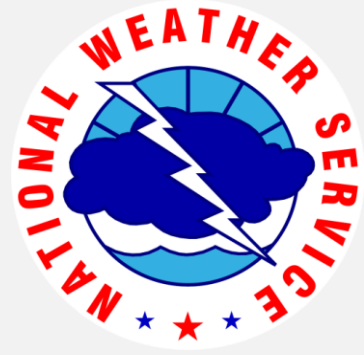
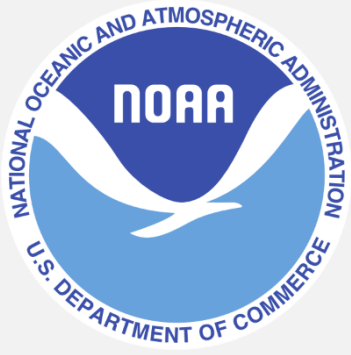


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Please note that all data mentioned is collected from our automated observing stations from 10 different airports across eastern Utah and western Colorado. Some of our cooperative observers in more remote areas may have measured warmer or colder temperatures, or more or less precipitation than what was mentioned in this summary.

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Story of the Month

17 NOVEMBER MIDDLE FORK FIRE CONTAINMENT

The Middle Fork Wildfire, which began on September 6, 2020 due to lightning 10 miles north of Steamboat Springs, was contained on November 17 after receiving consistent snowfall. The fire grew to 20,517 acres before reaching containment status.



Middle Fork Fire Earlier this Year
(Credit: Mo Demorat)

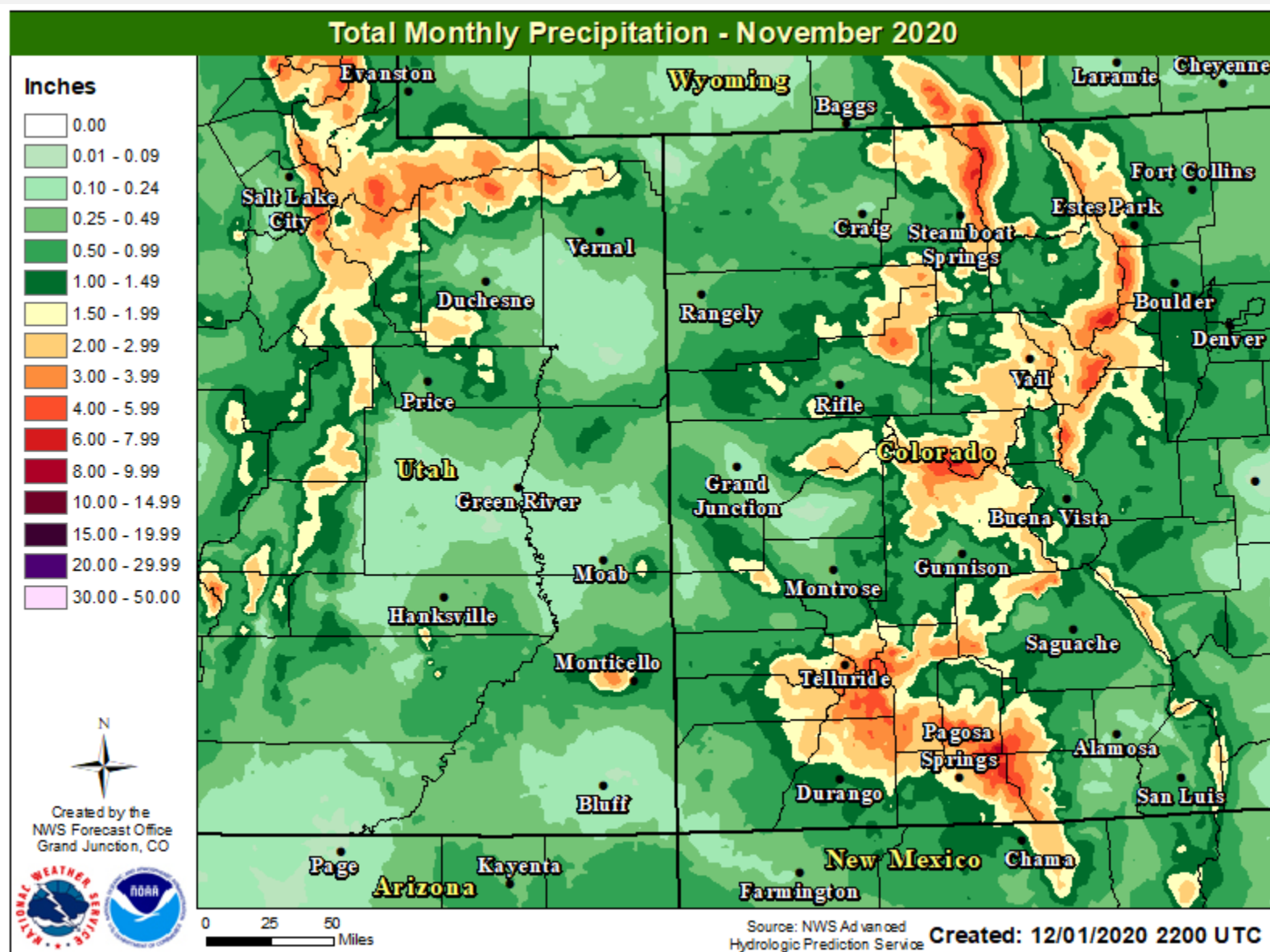
November 2020 Temperatures

| Location | Average Temp (°F) (Versus Normal) | Warmest Temp (°F) | Coldest Temp (°F) |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Aspen, CO | 34.0 (+4.7) | 65 on 11/5 | 8 on 11/27-28, 30 |
| Cortez, CO | 39.2 (+2.3) | 73 on 11/5 | 9 on 11/11 |
| Craig, CO | 33.3 (+3.0) | 69 on 11/3-5 | 0 on 11/27 |
| Durango, CO | 38.0 (+2.5) | 70 on 11/5 | 10 on 11/29 |
| Grand Junction, CO | 41.7 (+2.7) | 72 on 11/18 | 16 on 11/28 |
| Meeker, CO | 34.3 (+2.4) | 69 on 11/5 | 3 on 11/30 |
| Montrose, CO | 40.3 (+3.0) | 70 on 11/18 | 17 on 11/30 |
| Rifle, CO | 39.5 (+3.9) | 70 on 11/4 | 13 on 11/30 |
| Canyonlands Airport, UT | 40.0 (+1.3) | 72 on 11/18 | 10 on 11/30 |
| Vernal, UT | 34.8 (+0.8) | 67 on 11/4 | 9 on 11/30 |

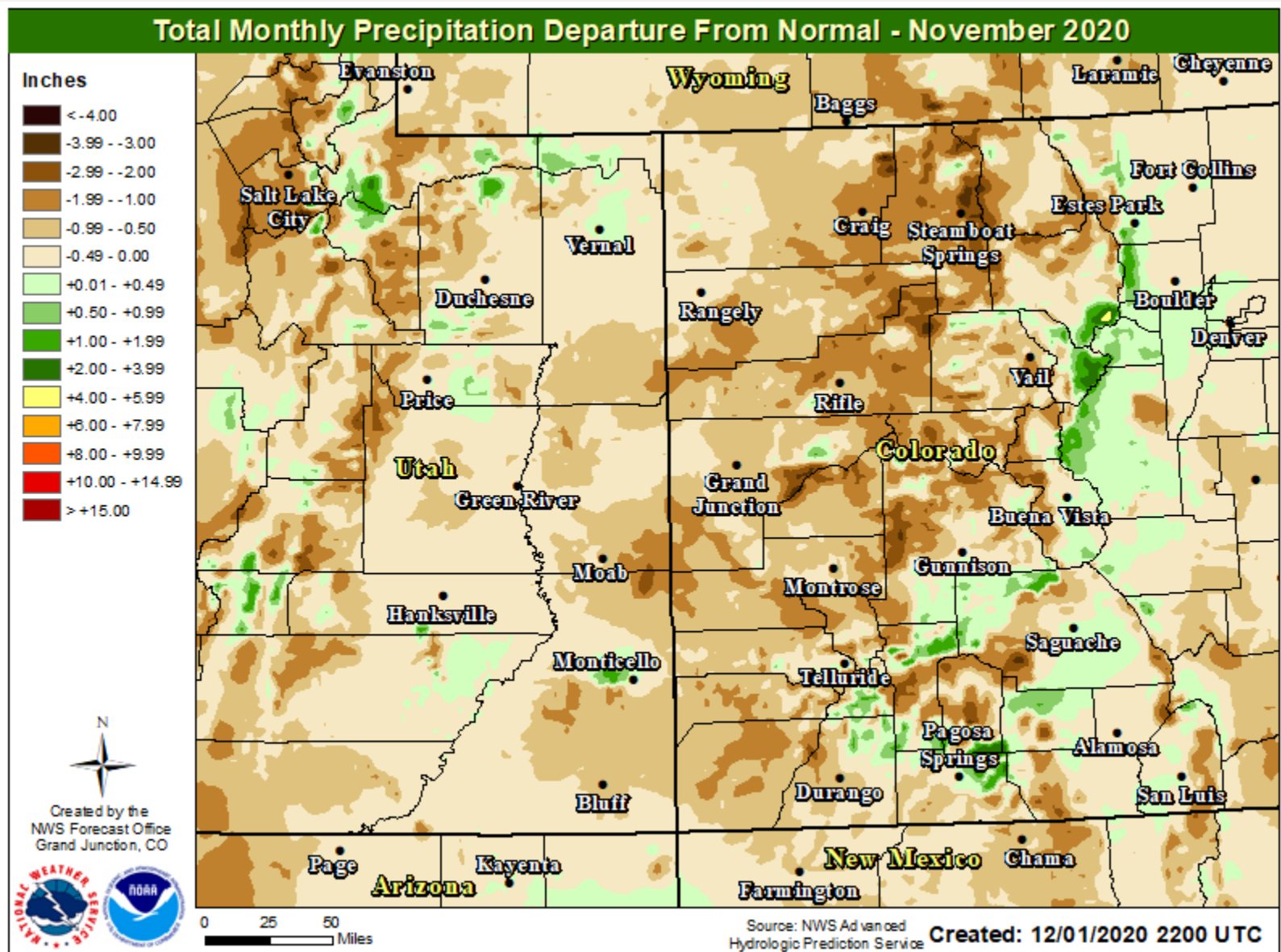
November 2020 Precipitation

| Location | Total Precipitation (in.) | Departure from Normal (in.) |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Aspen, CO | 0.74 | -0.63 |
| Cortez, CO | 0.28 | -1.03 |
| Craig, CO | 0.45 | -1.00 |
| Durango, CO | 1.24 | -0.44 |
| Grand Junction, CO | 0.11 | -0.62 |
| Meeker, CO | 0.90 | -0.57 |
| Montrose, CO | 0.43 | -0.38 |
| Rifle, CO | 0.22 | -0.88 |
| Canyonlands Airport, UT | 0.12 | -0.57 |
| Vernal, UT | 0.65 | +0.06 |

Total Monthly Precipitation



Monthly Precipitation Departure from Normal



November Daily Record Reports

A total of 1 daily record was set across the primary climate sites

| Site | Date | Record Type | New Record | Previous Record |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Grand Junction, CO | Nov 18 th | High Max Temperature | 72° | 65° in 1973 |

High Max

Low Max

Precip

High Min

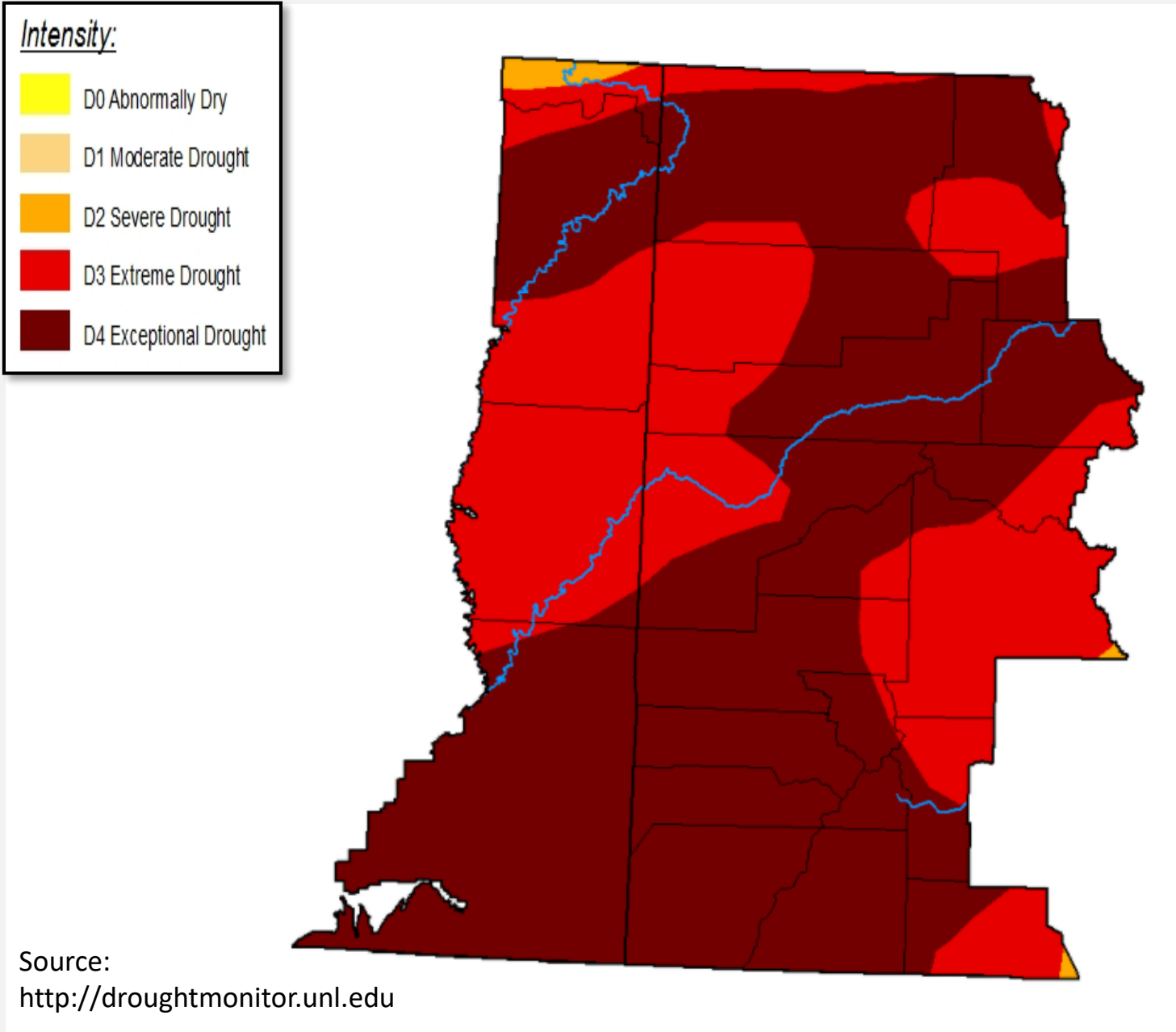
Low Min

Key

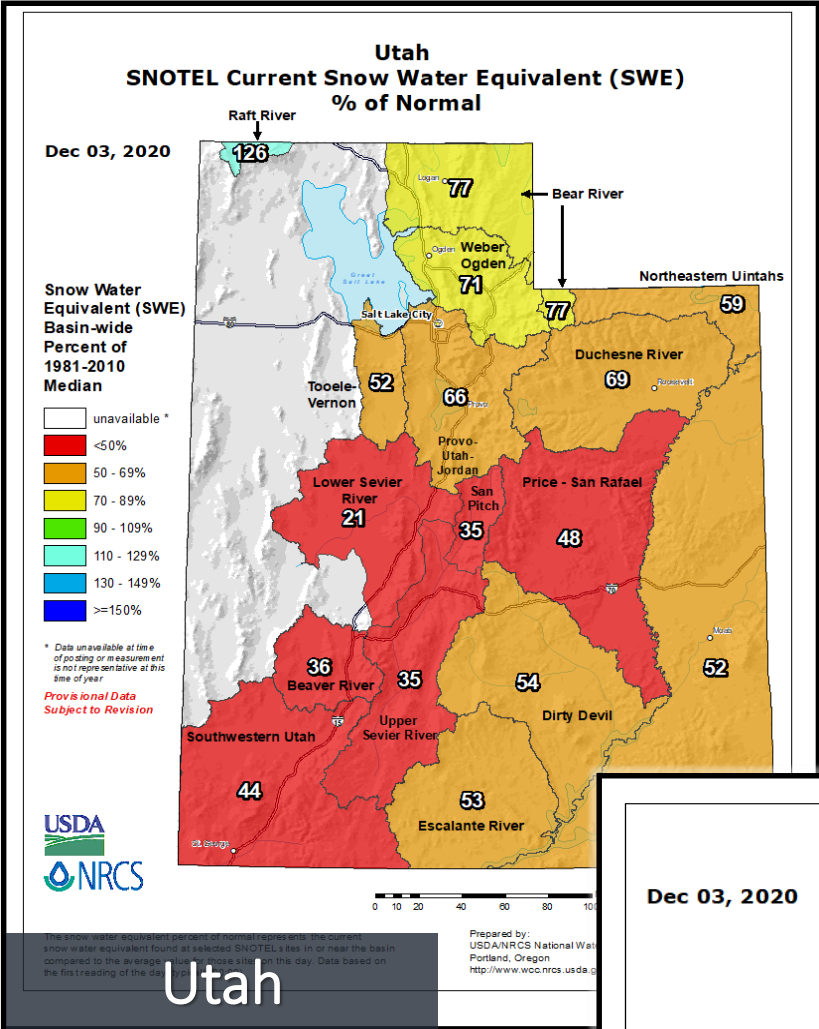


Drought Conditions as of December 3rd

Extreme (D3) to exceptional (D4) drought persisted across the majority of eastern Utah and western Colorado throughout November. Meanwhile, severe (D2) drought conditions persisted across far northeast Utah.

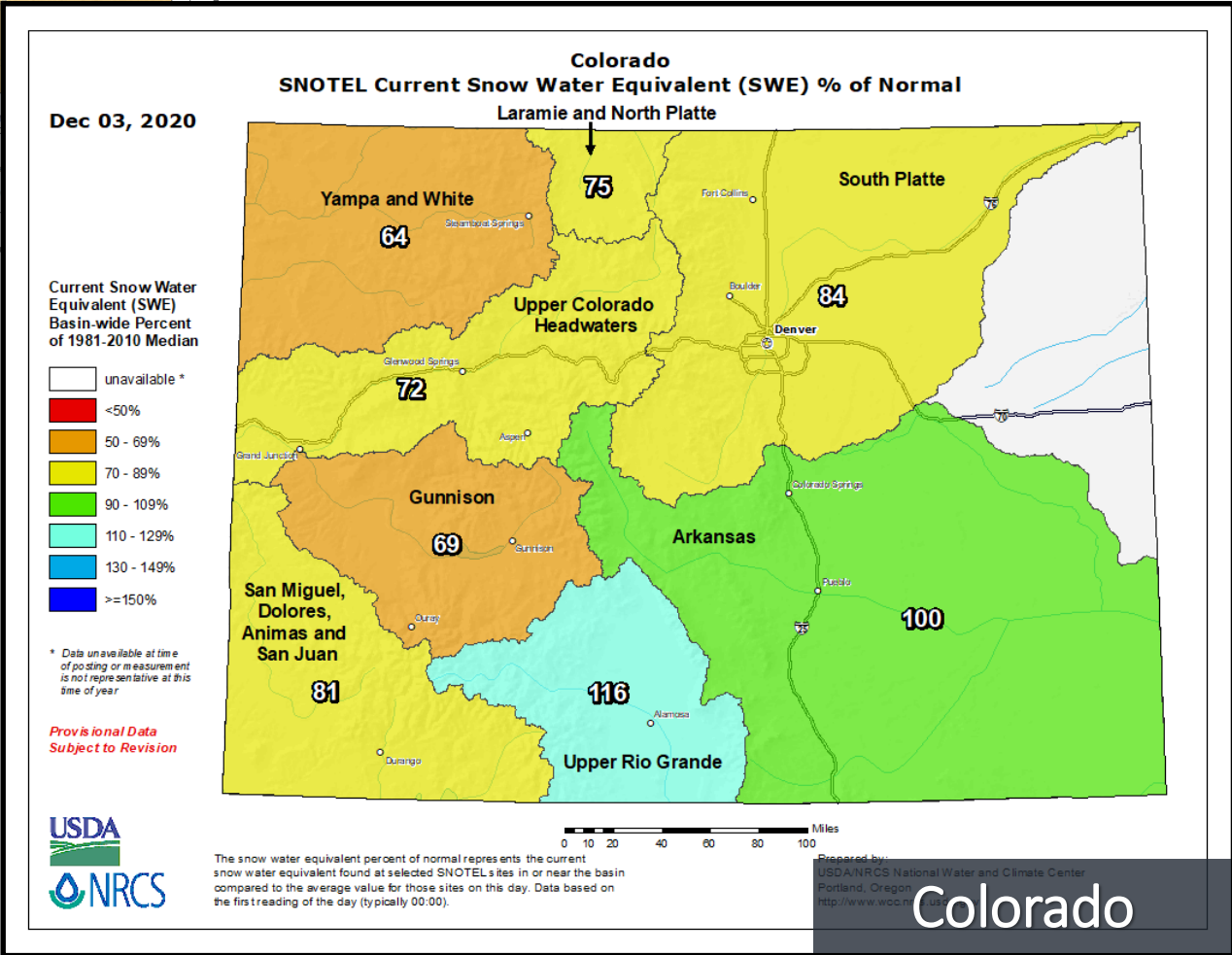


Snowpack Conditions as of December 3rd



For Utah...The snowpack for the eastern Utah basins remains 50 to 60% of normal.

For Colorado...The snowpack for the western Colorado basins remains 60 to 80% of normal



December Outlook

For December, the latest outlook from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) shows odds favoring warmer than normal temperatures across the entirety of eastern Utah and western Colorado with below normal precipitation favored.

